

24. *CONVOLVULUS MICROPHYLLUS* SIEB. EX SPRENG. (CONVOLVULACEAE):
A NEW RECORD FOR PENINSULAR INDIA¹

S. KARUPPUSAMY^{2,3} AND T. PULLAIAH^{2,4}

¹Accepted January 11, 2005

²Department of Biotechnology, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur 515 003, Andhra Pradesh, India.

³Email: ksamylin@yahoo.co.in

⁴Email: pullaiaht@yahoo.co.in

Convolvulus Linn. is a cosmopolitan genus, comprising of about 250 species, mostly found in temperate and subtropical regions of both hemispheres, rare in the tropics. In peninsular India, it is represented by about four species (Biju 1997). During our study on the flora of Dindigul district we collected *Convolvulus microphyllus* Sieb. ex Spreng., which is an addition to the flora of peninsular India.

Convolvulus microphyllus Sieb. ex Spreng. Syst. 1: 611, 1825; Wt. Ic.t.1367. 1848; Heine in Kew Bull. 16: 205, t.147, 1962; FBI4: 218, 1883; Cooke 2: 233, 1905 repr. 2: 301, 1958; Blatt. et Hallb. in JBNHS 26: 544, 1919; Fl. Raj. 93, 1964; Ills. Fl. Del. t. 147, 1966; Sharma et Tiagi, Fl. North-east Raj. 261, 1979. *C. plurilocularis* Choisy, Mem. Soc. Phys. Geneve 6: 677, 1833 et in DC. Prodr 9: 403, 1845; FBI4: 218, 1883; FUGP 2: 105, 1911, repr. 1: 547, 1952; Fl. Del. 239, 1963.

A suffruticose branched herb, densely hairy. Leaves linear-oblong to elliptic, obtuse, mucronate, lamina tapering towards base, surfaces densely villous. Flowers axillary, solitary or in cymes of 2-4, sessile or shortly pedicellate, bracteate flowers funnel-shaped, white with pinkish tinge. Sepals and stamens unequal. Ovary 2-celled, ovules 4. Style filiform, stigmas 2, linear or oblong, distinct. Fruit a globose capsule, 2-celled, 4-valved. Seeds 4, glabrous, smooth (Fig. 1).

Fl. & Fr.: Usually rainy season (August-October).

Ecology: A common plant of sandy areas. The flowers open during early morning hours.

Distribution: Nambia, and from Egypt to India (Blatter *et al.* 1978), Baluchistan (Burkill 1983), Rajasthan in India (Sharma and Tiagi 1979) and Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu.

Specimen examined: Oddanchatram, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu. S. Karuppusamy, 782 (SKU), Palani, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu, S. Karuppusamy, 1086 (SKU).

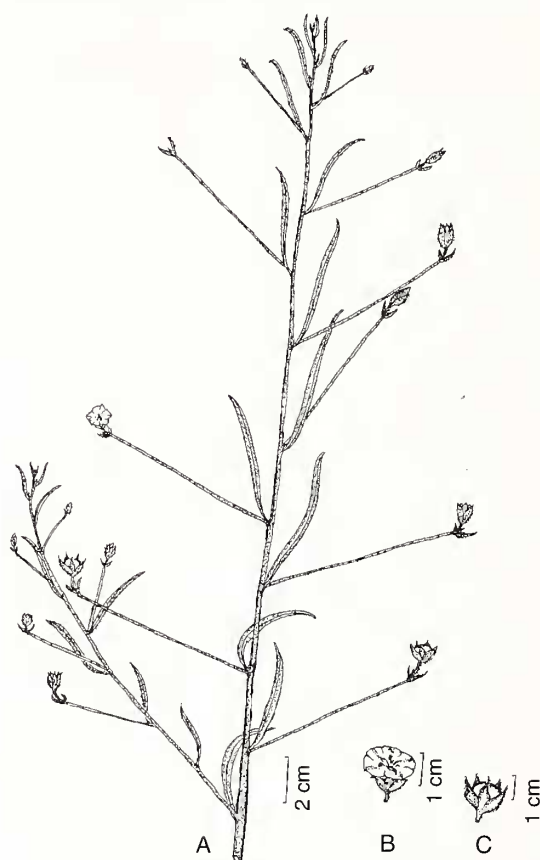


Fig. 1: *Convolvulus microphyllus* Sieb. ex Spreng:
A. Habit, B. Flower, C. Fruit with calyx

REFERENCES

BIJU, S.D. (1997): Taxonomic and morphologic studies on the Family Convolvulaceae of southern peninsular India. Ph.D. Thesis submitted to the University of Calicut, Kerala, India.
BLATTER, E., C. McCANN & T.S. SABNIS (1978): The Flora of Indus Delta. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehradun. 20 pp.

BURKILL, I.H. (1983): A Working List of the Flowering Plants of Baluchistan. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehradun. 53 pp.
SHARMA, S & B. TIAGI (1979): Flora of north-east Rajasthan. Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi. 261 pp.